# Exhibit F – Declaration of Michael Ayo

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

ELIZABETH BECKLEY,	)
Plaintiff,	)
v.	) Case No. 1:16-cv-01435-MHC
CITY OF ATLANTA,	)
Defendant.	) )
	)

### **DECLARATION OF MICHAEL AYO**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I hereby declare as follows:

- 1. I am currently employed by the City of Atlanta (the "City") as a Bridge Engineer with the Department of Public Works ("DPW"). I have more than twenty (20) years of experience as a civil engineer, and I have been employed by the City since 2015.
- 2. I am the designee of the DPW Commissioner pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 35.150(a)(3). In that capacity, I have assessed whether Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") compliant sidewalk ramps can be installed at the

intersection of Centennial Olympic Park Drive and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive in Atlanta, Georgia.

- 3. Centennial Olympic Park Drive and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive converge at a bridge, which is where the intersection at issue is located.
- 4. The roadway surface of the bridge at Centennial Olympic Park Drive and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive is concrete, not asphalt. The City does not resurface concrete roadways because the concrete surface is very resilient and does not wear out as often as asphalt roadways.
- 5. The bridge located at Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive was constructed in 1961. (See Exhibit F-1 attached hereto). I have concluded that the installation of ADA sidewalk ramps would require a major redesign of the intersection to bring it into compliance with ADA requirements.
- 6. From an engineering standpoint, the installation of ADA compliant sidewalk ramps at the intersection is structurally challenging because the sidewalks are cantilevered, which means that they are not fully supported.
- 7. Cantilevers must be firmly anchored on one side in order to hold up the necessary weight on the free standing side. A common example of a small cantilever is a diving board because one side is firmly attached to the ground so that the other side can hold a person's weight suspended over the water.

- 8. To support the bridge and the sidewalks along Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, rebars (i.e., steel rods) are embedded inside the concrete. Because the rebars are located below the bridge deck, it is a structural challenge to cut through the rebars.
- 9. Once the rebars are cut, the cantilevered sections of the bridge, which are supported by the rebars, are in danger of collapsing. Even if one section of the bridge collapsed, the bridge would no longer be safe for pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
- 10. To ensure ADA compliant sidewalk ramps are safely installed at the intersection, I collaborated with the local engineering firm of Burns McDonnell to redesign the intersection at issue. (See Exhibit F-2 attached hereto).
- 11. Given the unique safety risks posed by cutting through the existing bridge's rebars to install ADA compliant ramps, the ramps will be installed at the time the bridge at Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive is replaced.
- 12. Generally, it takes approximately two years for the completion of a bridge from the design phase to actual construction.
- 13. Although construction completion dates cannot be guaranteed, the bridge at Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive is expected to be replaced by 2018.

14. For the foregoing reasons, it is my professional opinion that the installation of ADA compliant sidewalks at the intersection of Centennial Olympic Park Drive and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive as it currently exists would fundamentally alter the City's services, programs, or activities and/or would impose undue administrative and financial burdens on the City.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature:

Michael Ayo

Executed on the 2 day of April, 2017.

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# Exhibit F-1

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		253 Fed Notify Date: 02/01/1901 0

# Exhibit F-2





